

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 are amended.

I. INTERVIEW

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Adams at the interview held December 7, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

II. ELECTION OF SPECIES

An Election of Species was asserted, and Applicant elected Figs. 2-4 and 9. Applicant asserts that claims 1-19 continue to read on the elected Figs. 2-4 and 9, and that at least claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10 and 15-16 are generic to all species. Applicant requests that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn because all of the species share at least one special technical feature as discussed below in reply to the prior art rejections and because the inventive concept is shared by all species.

III. 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed during the personal interview, the method claims have been amended to recite active, positive steps. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

IV. CLAIMS 1, 2, 5-9 AND 11-19

Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-2003-252448 to Kusano in view of DE 20309047 (see U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0243693 to Weis et al. (Weis)) and U.S. Patent No. 5,910,973 to Grodzins. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Kusano fails to disclose both a first circulation route and a second circulation route as recited in independent claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 15 because Kusano only discloses one circulation route. As illustrated by Kusano's Fig. 1, for example, Kusano discloses one circulation route between the quay area and the container stack yard. Kusano fails to also disclose a first circulation route that is only in the quay area as recited in the independent claims. As discussed during the personal interview, apparatus claims 8, 12 and 15 have been amended to clarify that the routes are a part of the container inspection/cargo-handling system.

Weis and Grodzins fail to overcome the deficiencies of Kusano because they fail to disclose routes.

The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence from the independent claims and for the additional features that they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. CLAIMS 3, 4 AND 10

Claims 3, 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kusano in view of Weis, Grodzins and JP-A-09-156769 to Okubo. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

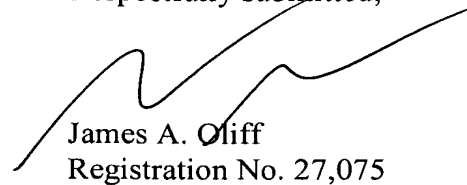
Okubo fails to overcome the deficiencies of the other applied references because Okubo also fails to disclose the claimed first circulation route. The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence from the independent claims and for the additional features that they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/ejw

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 31, 2009

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